

## **How To Put An End To The Circles of Cutter Bees**

by Lou Pavlovich

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About 10 years ago, a serious problem developed in my rose garden. Cutter bees, which make nearly a perfect half circle cutouts of rose leaves, went on a rampage. A group of 100 or so nearly defoliated all the plants in my backyard.

A bee expert at the University of Arizona gave me advice for stopping another such attack without the use of pesticides. He showed me a clever device easily made by anyone with woodworking knowledge and a few tools.

First cut a block of wood 4"x4"x4". Then, either collect or purchase plastic soda straws. Find a drill bit that is the same diameter as the straws you are using. Then put the drill bit in your drill, and you are ready to go. Next, drill a number of holes completely through the block of wood. Then, push the straws through the holes and cut them off flush at each end. Make 10 of these blocks which can be put on the soil near roses, in shady locations and on top of walls. The purpose is to get the cutter bees (which are always female bees) to deposit the cut leaves in the straws along with their cutter bee eggs.

Once the straws are filled, simply pull them out and deposit them in the garbage or take them to the next county where the young cutter bees will not hurt your plants.

Another solution was heard on the Jerry Baker radio show. Baker said to mix one teaspoon of flea and tick shampoo, and add one tablespoon of ammonia to one gallon of water. Mix well, and spray your bushes. He said the cutter bees hate the smell of this mix and therefore don't attack the foliage.

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Albert Ford, *Editor*

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